

Labor Resources for Abbeville, South Carolina

Executive Summary

This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of Abbeville, South Carolina. Abbeville is located in Abbeville County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of Abbeville.

Labor Situation at a Glance in Abbeville, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	60,309	174,074	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	26,755	83,253	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	2,354	6,543	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	8.8%	7.9%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	79	311	22,196
Average Wages	Abbeville County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$499	\$581	\$658

Labor Force Characteristics for Abbeville, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

Labor Force			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force 2004	26,755	83,253	2,046,179
Change since 2000	-1,913	690	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	60,309	174,074	4,198,068
Change since 2000	874	3,905	186,056
Projected 2010	66,751	194,064	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	28,685	83,178	2,040,261
Female	31,624	90,896	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	12,149	34,769	875,330
Ages 35-49	11,884	36,430	925,330
Ages 50-64	10,865	31,555	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	28,120	82,874	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	19,704	55,942	778,054
Some College	9,612	28,687	500,194
Associate Degree	4,298	12,335	173,428
Bachelors Degree	6,418	19,323	351,526
Post Bachelor	3,070	8,880	178,529

**Prime working age group:*
People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and
Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

Employment Characteristics for Abbeville, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	24,401	76,710	1,906,571

Total Employment data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

Monthly Employment by Sector In Abbeville County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	41	163	12,379
Mining		2	1,603
Utilities	16	109	11,891
Construction	876	2,919	111,730
Manufacturing	6,454	16,928	275,573
Wood product manufacturing	207	626	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	29	224	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing		17	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	419	1,415	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	46	345	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing		21	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.		17	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	137	911	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	40	102	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	58	163	7,846
Food manufacturing		16	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	1,650	2,975	40,207
Textile product mills		33	9,724
Apparel manufacturing		7	5,321
Paper manufacturing	6	56	14,710
Printing and related support activities	13	92	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	536	1,395	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	95	802	23,054
Wholesale Trade	334	1,357	62,523
Retail Trade	2,250	7,351	224,031
Transportation and Warehousing	275	1,002	46,941
Education and Health Services	4,952	14,416	156,232
Leisure and Hospitality	1,818	5,582	192,748
Professional and Business Services	1,201	4,362	186,481

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

Largest Industries by Total Employment In Abbeville County				
Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Mohawk Industries	Calhoun Falls	Nylon carpet yarn	488	1957
Flexible Technologies	Abbeville	Home appliances	416	1947
West Point Stevens	Calhoun Falls	Sheeting	371	1909
Pirelli Power Cables & Systems	Abbeville	Electrical wire & cable	250	1964
The Rug Barn	Abbeville	Cotton afghan throws	200	1985
Professional Towel Mills	Abbeville	Printed beach towels	160	1989
Burnstein von Seelen Precision Casting	Abbeville	Copper & copper base castings	123	1985
Thantex Specialty Inc	Abbeville	Specialty textile products	95	1998
Morton Metalcrafts Co of SC	Honea Path	Sheet metal fabrication	50	1998
Rondy & Co Inc	Abbeville	Reprocessed rubber & plastic	40	1989
East Teak Trading Group	Donalds	Hardwood	38	1977
Piedmont Plastics	Ware Shoals	Plastics processing	35	1995
Merl's Inc	Abbeville	Countertops	30	1982
Rail Soft Inc	Abbeville	Railroad application software	30	1995
Stoll Fireplace Equipment Inc	Abbeville	Glass fireplace enclosures	25	1972
P.C.A. Rebuild Center	Honea Path	Machine shop	25	1969
Ware Shoals Industries	Ware Shoals	Electroplating of metals	24	
Overholt Truss Co	Ware Shoals	Roof & floor trusses	23	1990
Masterweave Inc	Abbeville	Afghan throws	20	1992
Dedicated Delivery	Abbeville	Trucking	18	2001

Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

Availability of Labor

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force (2004)	26,755	83,253	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	-1,913	690	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	44%	48%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	2,354	6,543	139,607
Unemployment Rate	8.8%	7.9%	6.8%

The *labor force participation* rate is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

Unemployment reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

Total Jobs Lost Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs Past Two Years			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Total	79	311	22,196
Manufacturing	65	272	19,196
Distribution	14	35	1,213
Service	-	5	1,745
Other	-	-	42

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

Commuters to Other Areas			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Commuters to other areas	7,948	21,594.0	31,833

Workers commuting to places outside their residence are a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

Certificates/Degrees Conferred From Technical Colleges in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Abbeville County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates/Degrees Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	152
Data Processing Technology	142
Engineering Technologies (Total)	142
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	19
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	2
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	231
Industrial Electronics	62
HVAC	85
Precision Production (Total)	282
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	86

Graduation From South Carolina's Four Year Colleges and Universities In Select Degrees		
	Degrees Conferred (2002-2004)	
	Bachelors	Post- Grad
Computer and Information Science (Total)	910	108
Computer Engineering	150	149
Computer Programming	12	5
Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)	1,316	786
Chemical Engineering	136	38
Electrical Engineering	257	150
Industrial Engineering	78	44
Mechanical Engineering	268	95
Business Admin & Management	4,754	1,018
International Business/Trade	178	276

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Wages and Salaries

Average Wage and Salary Comparison			
Sector	Abbeville County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$499	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$25,928	\$30,240	\$37,508
Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**	N/A	\$14.73	\$16.14

*Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

** Employment & Earnings, U.S. Department of Labor

Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004		
Sector	Abbeville County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$30,413	\$39,027
Wood product	***	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	***	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$33,271	\$37,533
Machinery	***	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	***	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	\$23,314	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	***	\$34,350
Food	***	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	\$27,920	\$31,898
Textile product mills	***	\$25,618
Apparel	***	\$23,705
Paper	***	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	***	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	***	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	***	\$46,620

***Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

Occupational Wages In Abbeville and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Abbeville Area			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	*	*	*
Butchers and Meat Cutters	*	*	*
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	*	*	*
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	*	*	*
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	\$9.97	\$11.63	13.39
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	*	*	*
Logging Equipment Operators	\$9.80	\$11.81	13.64
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$11.17	\$14.25	16.9
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	\$11.07	\$12.82	14.72
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$12.46	\$14.49	16.33
Machinists	\$11.68	\$13.85	16.14
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$8.42	\$10.84	13.95
Molding & Casting Machine Op	\$8.05	\$10.05	12.28
Sewing Machine Operators	\$6.70	\$9.02	10.67
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$9.09	\$10.47	12.09
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.11	\$14.95	16.78
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$11.82	\$13.80	15.73
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$9.02	\$10.77	12.66
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Abbeville Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	\$46,820	\$55,460	\$66,020
Computer Programmers	\$32,400	\$40,960	\$49,560
Engineers, NEC	\$45,360	\$49,520	\$56,100
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$30,240	\$39,140	\$46,920
Industrial Engineers	\$43,060	\$50,620	\$59,020
Mechanical Engineers	\$49,380	\$56,920	\$63,920

Source: *Occupational Wage Survey*, SC Employment Security Commission

* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available